

## **2003-04 Warm Water Fish Management Activity Report**

### **Region 6 (Glasgow)**

#### **Missouri River Below Fort Peck Reservoir**

- Construction on School Trust Fishing Access Site was completed in June 2003. Site is located at old Garwood Site, about 1 mile upstream from confluence with Milk River and about 5 miles downstream of dam.
- Lewis and Clark FAS, Wolf Point, was to have some improvements completed Summer 2003, however funding requirements are delaying work. Currently, anticipated completion will occur in fall, 2004. Major improvement is addition of concrete boat ramp. Further downstream, Fishing Access Sites at Snowden and Brockton are expected to be complete by 2005.
- A warm water release from the Ft. Peck spillway will not occur for several years due to extremely low reservoir elevations. Releases were scheduled to occur in Spring 2003, to enhance potential for spawning of endangered pallid sturgeon and other native fish species. Forecasts for sufficient reservoir levels to enable spilling of water predict implementation in 4 years, minimum, due to continued drought and further declines in reservoir level.

#### **Box Elder Reservoir**

- During the fall, 2004, an additional latrine is expected to be installed.
- A plant of 50,000 walleye fry will be made in spring, 2004.

#### **Ft. Peck Dredge Cut Pond**

- Yellow perch population has increased dramatically from previous years, resulting in large numbers of small fish. Trapping and transplanting small yellow perch to other ponds is being scheduled in Spring 2004, and stocking of predator fish occurred in late April.
- The restoration of existing boat ramp and installation of floating docks to provide fishing platforms for shoreline anglers are scheduled for 2005.

#### **Fresno Reservoir**

The management strategy to increase existing populations of yellow perch to enhance the forage base by transplanting pre-spawn adults in years when a suitable amount of vegetation is available at or above 3.0 fish/ net was resumed in April, 2004. A total of 30,000 pre-spawn adults were transplanted from Lake Mary Ronan. If reservoir elevations continue to rise, it should inundate shoreline vegetation to provide suitable spawning habitat for yellow perch, thus enhancing

forage base. An improved forage base and forecast for rising pool, supports stocking 100,000 walleye fingerling in June 2004.

### **Nelson Reservoir**

The Malta Chapter of Walleyes Unlimited agreed to contact the Bureau of Reclamation in 2004 to determine status of a proposed project to construct a new boat ramp, parking area and latrine adjacent to the outlet area. This project was agreed to by the BOR in 2000. In 2001, a low water ramp site was chosen, surveyed and designed by FWP, BOR funds are now needed to complete project.

Due to the good existing water level in Nelson Reservoir in spring 2004, a forecast for good mountain runoff in the Milk River Drainage, and good forage base sampled in fall of 2003, a plant of 100,000 walleye fingerlings is scheduled for June 2004.

### **Dry Fork Reservoir**

Discussion with local groups in the Chinook area continued in 2004 to find a suitable method to augment existing water source for filling and maintaining the reservoir. Fortunately, summer rains in 2003 and snow runoff in the area caused the reservoir to refill in spring, 2004. A plant of 25,800 Eagle Lake rainbow trout and 7,700 black crappie was made in 2003. Additional plants of 12,000 Arlee rainbow trout and 50,000 walleye fry are scheduled for 2004.

### **Bailey Reservoir**

Area snowmelt in spring 2004 restored water levels considerably. Yellow perch and black crappie populations appear to have survived the extremely low water in 2003.

### **Little Warm Reservoir**

Water level has increased, but numbers of walleye are down. Good catches of tiger muskies have been reported in 2003. FWP with help of landowner Steve Knudsen installed a much needed boat ramp (metal Air Force landing mat) and plans are being made to install a cattle guard at the reservoir entrance in summer 2004.

### **Cow Creek Reservoir**

Water levels in this reservoir have remained stable in spite of recent drought. Catches of walleye and channel catfish remain good and anglers are catching tiger muskies regularly.

### **Bear Paw Lake**

Fishing pressure is increasing with more acceptable size trout, resulting from increased growth due to reduction of sucker population. Sucker population consists mainly of adult fish, with numbers of smaller fish reduced by smallmouth bass predation.

### **Beaver Creek Reservoir**

Northern pike numbers remain low, however a good year-class was produced in 2003. Due to low numbers of northerns and increase stocking of trout, trout numbers have increase, rising above the 10 fish/net target. Number of perch has declined, but average size remains stable, with good catches being made by anglers. Anglers on a regular basis are catching smallmouth bass.